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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GERRITS, Andreas, J.** [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). **DEN BRINKER, Albertus, C.** [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agent: **SLENDERS, Petrus, J., W.**; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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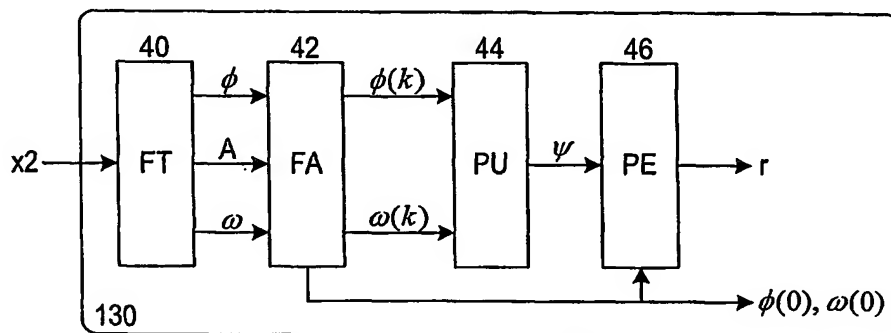
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(54) Title: **LOW BIT-RATE AUDIO ENCODING**



(57) Abstract: In a sinusoidal audio encoder a number of sinusoids are estimated per audio segment. A sinusoid is represented by frequency, amplitude and phase. Normally, phase is quantised independent of frequency. The invention uses a frequency dependent quantisation of phase, and in particular the low frequencies are quantised using smaller quantisation intervals than at higher frequencies. Thus, the unwrapped phases of the lower frequencies are quantised more accurately, possibly with a smaller quantisation range, than the phases of the higher frequencies. The invention gives a significant improvement in decoded signal quality, especially for low bit-rate quantisers.



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